

# **VERMONT TOBACCO EVALUATION AND REVIEW BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday,  
January 4, 2017  
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Agency of Human Services  
Sally Fox Conference Center, Ash Conference Room  
280 State Drive, Waterbury Vermont**

## **Draft Minutes**

Board Attendees: Kate Larose (phone), Alexandra Potter, Rhonda Williams, Greg McDonald, Amy Brewer, Rebecca Thompson, Amy Tucker, Bob Uerz, Megan Sault, Alex Crimmin

Public Attendees: Gary Kessler, Tina Zuk (phone), Rebecca Ryan (phone)  
Start time: 3:05pm

### **Approval of Board Minutes December 7, 2017**

Two small changes noted on the minutes: change header from “Agenda” to “Minutes” and page 2 under “update on its submission” clarify the last sentence to read as a quote.

Alexandra Potter moves to accept the December 7 minutes with two changes. Alex Crimmin seconds. Seven in favor. none opposed. Rebecca Thompson, Amy Tucker and Megan Sault abstain. Minutes are accepted.

### **Public Comment**

Rebecca Ryan – Coalition for a Tobacco Free Vermont is hosting a Volunteer Training for Tobacco 21 Campaign. January 11, 2017 from 5:00-7pm (light dinner /check in begins at 5:00, program promptly at 5:30 p.m.)

-American Lung Association’s Annual State of Tobacco Control is coming out January 25th.

### **Announcements**

Rhonda Williams – Announced a new hire at VDH, Tobacco Program Administrator, Julie Wasserman. Years of experience across the state with a strong health Systems/Policy background

-Erin Singer at VDH is updating data products. She is using BRFSS data that has changed significantly from the previous year and highlighting quitting patterns, chronic disease etc. Also she is revising Tobacco Data Pages and they are featured on VDH’s new website.

-The tobacco survey data will be available by the end of the week with a report coming in the spring. Invite Erin Singer to VTERB to present after the report is complete

### **VTERB Budget Recommendation**

#### **Review Proposed Budget Recommendation**

Amy Brewer - Walks Board through the VTERB Budget Recommendation and the process of coming up with the budget. School and Community Committee met previously and worked on a budget needed to boost its work. Other work done through individual conversations with Board members.

Questions:

-Greg – How do you break it down the cessation number? VT Quit in Person Blueprint hasn’t shared how much less they’ve paid. If there was additional funding, we would collaborate with Blueprint in

order to pay more for in-person services from tobacco treatment specialists. We haven't broken down the budget number for this section and can do this work

-Enforcement – Compliance checks on E-cigs is something to highlight. That is worth spending money on. Justifies an increase in funding. DLC is at max capacity as far as personnel, so achieving 100% is possible but not doing 30% more as Alexi suggested. DCL could hire an outside contractor to do checks beyond what the FDA requires.

-VDH Surveillance – Because of a price increase, VDH is looking at doing ATS every 3 years, pre-buy.

- results oriented language will be beneficial for the new AHS Sec, we should add this to the justifications for larger budgets. Alexi will help by linking it to research. Also Alexi can provide justification for an independent evaluation.

-VTERB Admin - funding for fulltime, need to include impactful things are left undone.

### **Revise as needed**

Revise to add \$200K for unaccounted costs to the SU grants.

### **Vote on Budget Recommendation**

Alexandra Potter makes motion to approve the Budget Recommendation at \$5,651,123. Greg McDonald seconds. 8 in favor. Bob Uerz and Rhonda Williams abstain.

**Budget Recommendation Passed**

### **VTERB Annual Report**

Annual Report needs to be submitted on Friday, Jan 13<sup>th</sup>. Due to the legislature and governor by January 15 each year.

#### **Review Annual Report**

Board reviewed Version 9 of the Annual Report

#### **Make any final revisions**

Minor grammatical and layout changes suggested as well as adding some supporting statistics

Content changes include:

- Update the budget number to the Budget Recommendation passed with the additional \$200k
- Update the expenditure numbers as more accurate reports come in this week
- Change slide 4 to say minimum of 25 feet to be in line with HUD ruling
- Make sure the stat on slide 2 and 16 are the same
- Adding Evaluation to slide 20 as part of the Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program

### **Approve Annual Report (Vote)**

Rhonda Williams makes motion to approve the Annual Report with changes. Rebecca Thompson seconds Rebecca. 10 in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

**Annual Report Passed.**

### **Other Business/Information**

**(20 min)**

Gary Kessler, DLC, talks to the Board about ideas he has to support Tobacco Control including:

1. Increasing the licensing fees for tobacco retailers – a more pay to play model – the fee should at least cover the cost of compliance checks and licensing. If a licensee fails then it will need to pay to get it back
2. End the freebie tobacco license process with the purchase of a liquor license
3. Explore the possibility of reducing the number of tobacco outlets
4. Pharmacies – encouraging pharmacies to not sell would reduce outlets
5. Use 16 year olds in compliance checks so we have more teens to work with on a longer-term basis
6. Increase the sanctions for selling to minors
7. Increase the suspension to licensees for selling

Hopes to work with VTERB on these issues. VTERB has had all as part of previous policy discussions and looks forward with moving them forward.